

N83447.AR.000301  
NAS FORT WORTH  
5090.3a

NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "EFFORTS TO CLEAN CONTAMINATED CREEK BEGIN" NAS FORT  
WORTH TX  
1/20/1997  
FORT WORTH STAR TELEGRAM



**NAVAL AIR STATION  
FORT WORTH JRB  
CARSWELL FIELD  
TEXAS**

---

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD  
COVER SHEET**

AR File Number 385

2025 1

File: 29A  
A.F.

# Fort Worth Star-Telegram

385

Monday, January 20, 1997

## Efforts to clean contaminated

**Jet fuel is suspected of causing the odor in Westworth Village's air since Thursday.**

BY JUSTIN BACHMAN  
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

**WESTWORTH VILLAGE** — Efforts began yesterday to clean up a spill of what is believed to be jet fuel, which is contaminating a small creek near Naval Air Station Fort Worth and leaving residents in the town of 2,500 breathing foul, petroleum-laden air.

The odor was first noticed Thursday afternoon and residents soon began calling Westworth Village fire and police officials, Mayor Betty Sarlls said.

By Friday night, fumes were clearly apparent to all, said Sarlls, who lives near the creek and collected a sample of the pollutant.

"It's a very viscous, clear fluid that clings to the side of a glass jar," Sarlls said. "I could tell that it smells like something that is potentially damaging.

"It's very invasive indoors, as well as out of doors. Westworth Village is in something

of a [geographical] depression and so the odor kind of collects around here."

The creek — dubbed King's Branch after an old moniker for base housing — runs adjacent to Shady Oaks Country Club, then into the naval air station and finally into the West Fork of the Trinity River below Lake Worth, Sarlls said.

The spill is believed to be coming from upstream, within Fort Worth's city limits. The Fort Worth Fire Department's hazardous-material team was called Friday night and took a sample of the pollutant.

## creek begin

Fort Worth officials erected booms along the creek Saturday and decided yesterday to begin vacuuming water from the creek, said Brian Camp, a senior environmental specialist with the City of Fort Worth.

Westworth Village is working with Fort Worth environmental officials, who have hired an environmental contractor who began pumping water from the creek last night, Camp said.

Westworth Village officials summoned an engineer from the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to monitor the cleanup. Camp said Fort Worth will try to recover cleanup costs from whoever is responsible for the spill.

## Spill

From Page 1

"We've got something more than just someone losing something from a golf cart," Camp said. He said there was no way to determine yesterday how many gallons of the liquid have seeped into the creek.

Sarlls quoted police officials as saying that the spill is believed to

originate at an underground pipe that supplies Carswell with jet fuel. The pipe either ruptured or was not shut off during a recent cleaning, she said.

She declined to name the company that operates the pipe until officials determine who is responsible for the spill.

"I don't want to seem hysterical about it, but it has caused breathing problems for some of the residents and it has affected fish in the water," Sarlls said. This, she added, "obviously indicates that it's unhealthy for all the flora and the fauna along the creek.

Besides, the mayor added, "It stinks."

**FINAL PAGE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

**FINAL PAGE**

**FINAL PAGE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

**FINAL PAGE**